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Henson gets 5 years in jail

Pre-sentence investigation had recommended 30 years

By Canda Harbaugh
The Western News

A 19-year-old Kalispell woman was sentenced Wednesday for fatally shooting a 67-year-old man last July in Lincoln County with the alleged help of her boyfriend.

District Court Judge Michael Prezeau gave Heather Michelle Henson 20 years in prison, with 15 years suspended, for killing Larry Kingsley.

Before announcing his sentence, he noted his sympathy toward the victim's son, Larry Todd Kingsley, who testified at the sentencing.

"I am almost certain that the sentence I hand out today isn't going to be the one you would hand out," he said.

His sentence was harsher than the defense's psychiatrist suggested and more lenient than the 40 years, 10 years suspended, that was recommended in a pre-sentence investigation conducted by probation officer



Paul Sievers/The Western News
Defense attorney Edmund Sheehy and Heather Henson sit in district court Wednesday during sentencing.

Steve Watson.

Dr. William Stratford of Missoula testified over the phone about his evaluation of Henson.

"This was a situational circumstance that was extreme," he said, referring to the night

of the murder. "I don't believe she is a threat to society."

Prosecutor Robert Slomski cited the fact that Henson testified that she would kill again if in the same situation as a reason why she should be locked up for the suggested 30

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years.
"I have to agree (with the post-sentence investigation) based on her judgment," said Slomski. "She testified that she would do the same thing again."

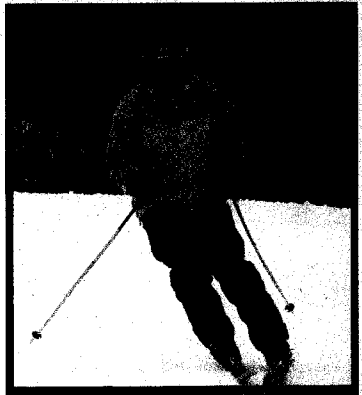
Prezeau stated that Henson made a bad decision by returning to Kingsley's campsite the night of his murder and that she and her boyfriend probably could have gotten away without harming Kingsley.

Then he went on to say the teenagers had good reason to believe that Kingsley was dangerous, based on events earlier in the day and that night.

"The best way to go about this is recognizing that because of decisions Ms. Henson made ... a man lost his life, and that's the bottom line," Prezeau said.

Henson will have to com-

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Glow Up Your Soul
Turner Mountain becomes
2nd home for 79-year-old

By Brandon Roberts

dent enters not guilty plea

Mundale and Jody Self allegedly killed a mountain lion near Cedar Creek Dec. 24, 2007 with Mundale's hounds, according to friends. A witness saw Self skinning the lion sometime during the winter and also spotted the lion's skull in her woodpile. Mundale's friend told police

he and Mundale discarded the mountain lion carcass in a landfill in April.

As part of the plea agreement, Mundale was charged with hunting a mountain lion without a valid license, a misdemeanor. A felony charge of tampering with evidence and a misdemeanor charge

of unlawfully transporting a game animal were dropped.

Also part of the agreement, Mundale had to give a statement fully disclosing what happened and who was involved in the incident, pay \$1,350 in fines and restitution, and forfeit game licenses for two years.

IN MEMORY OF EDWARD B. BENOIT

LONGTIME LIBBY RESIDENT AND W.R.GRACE & CO. RETIREE ED BENOIT PASSED AWAY AT HOME ON JANUARY 18, 2009 AT 10:15 PM. THE PRIMARY CAUSE WAS RESPIRATORY INFECTION AND FAILURE STEMMING DIRECTLY FROM PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED SEVERE ASBESTOSIS. HE PASSED WITH HIS DAUGHTER, HOLLY BENOIT MCKENZIE AND STEPDAUGHTER, BONNIE GRAHAM, BOTH OF LIBBY, AT HIS BEDSIDE. HE WAS 86.

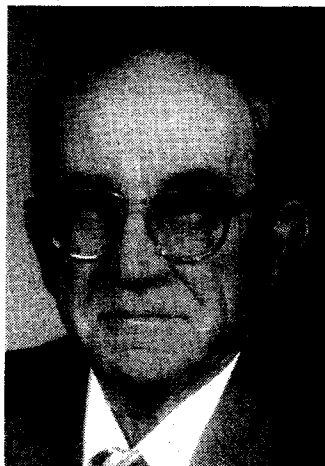
ED WAS BORN IN WARNER, NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH) ON OCTOBER 22, 1922, TO JOSEPH D. AND LOTTIE BENOIT. HE WAS THE FIFTH CHILD OF TEN. HE IS SURVIVED BY THREE SISTERS, TWO BROTHERS, ONE SISTER-IN-LAW AND NUMEROUS NIECES/NEPHEWS IN NEW ENGLAND AND FLORIDA. AS WELL AS THE AFORE-MENTIONED, HE IS SURVIVED BY STEPDAUGHTER BONNIE GRAHAM'S HUSBAND TIMOTHY, AND DAUGHTER TO BONNIE GRAHAM STEP GRANDCHILD CINDY TALASKE AND HER HUSBAND JOHN OF SPANAWAY, WA, THEIR SON AND STEP GREAT GRANDCHILD, JOHN RUDOLPH TALASKE IV, AND STEPSON RONALD H. PHILBRICK AND THREE STEPCHILDREN.

ED GREW UP AND ATTENDED SCHOOL IN CROYDON, NH. AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL, HE WAS EMPLOYED DOING FORESTRY WORK IN NH UNTIL HIS INDUCTION INTO MILITARY SERVICE WITH THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES ON NOVEMBER 19, 1942 AT AGE 22.

HE SERVED HIS COUNTRY THROUGHOUT WORLD WAR II, WITH MOST OF THAT SERVICE ON THE FRONT LINES IN FRANCE AND ITALY. WHILE SERVING THERE FOR COMPANY A OF THE 760TH BATTALION HE WAS AT FIRST A GENERAL TECHNICIAN AND THEN CARRIED AND OPERATED HIS UNIT'S FIELD RADIO AND RELATED COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS UNTIL NEARLY THE END OF THE WAR, AND THEN WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED ON FEBRUARY 8TH, 1946 AT FORT DEVENS, MASSACHUSETTS.

FOLLOWING HIS MILITARY SERVICE, HE RETURNED TO CROYDON AND RESUMED WORK IN FORESTRY. IN HIS LATE TWENTIES, HE BEGAN WORK AS GAMEKEEPER AT MCCORMICK PARK IN CROYDON, A PRIVATELY OWNED GAME PRESERVE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND ACRES. ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 1948, DURING HIS YEARS AS GAMEKEEPER, HE MARRIED MYRTLE PORTER-PHILBRICK OF CROYDON. MYRTLE, DAUGHTER OF HARRY L. AND VIOLA PORTER OF CROYDON, WAS A DIVORCED WORKING MOTHER RAISING TWO CHILDREN ON HER OWN, RONALD AND BONNIE. UPON MARRYING, THEY MADE THEIR HOME IN CROYDON. HE CONTINUED HIS WORK AS GAMEKEEPER, AND EVENTUALLY ALSO WORKED WITH HIS FATHER-IN-LAW RAISING COMMERCIAL FRYER CHICKENS AND LEARNING AND EMPLOYING SUBSTANTIAL CARPENTRY SKILLS TO ALL OF HIS WORK DURING THAT TIME. IN 1953, THEIR DAUGHTER HOLLY WAS BORN. IN 1955, ED AND HIS WIFE BEGAN TO DREAM OF RELOCATING TO SOMEWHERE "OUT WEST." MYRTLE BEGAN TO SHARE ED'S AVID INTEREST IN THE WILD, EXPANSIVE FORESTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, WHICH HE HAD LEARNED MUCH ABOUT THROUGH LETTERS FROM A FRIEND THAT HAD RELOCATED TO MONTANA. THE LETTERS CONVEYED BOUNTIFUL OPPORTUNITIES IN FORESTRY EMPLOYMENT AND OUTDOOR RECREATION. ED SOON DEVELOPED A HANKERING TO "GO OUT WEST AND CUT SOME TERRIBLE, GREAT BIG TREES", IN A PLACE WHERE HE AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY COULD TOGETHER ENJOY BIG GAME HUNTING AND, MOST ESPECIALLY, LOTS OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FISHING! THOSE THAT KNEW ED WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW IMPORTANT TO HIM THAT SPORT WOULD ALWAYS BE. . . .

IN THE EARLY SUMMER OF 1960, ED, HIS WIFE AND THE CHILDREN "SOLD OUT" IN CROYDON AND TRAVELED ACROSS THE NORTHERN UNITED STATES TOWARD THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST HOPING TO FULFILL THEIR DREAMS. SOMEWHERE IN WASHINGTON, ED'S STEPSON RONALD, THEN AGE 18, RETURNED TO NEW HAMPSHIRE WHERE HE WAS INDUCTED INTO MILITARY SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY. THEN, AFTER HAVING HAD A "GOOD LOOK AROUND" IN A NUMBER OF LOGGING COMMUNITIES IN WASHINGTON, IDAHO AND WESTERN MONTANA, THE FAMILY SETTLED IN LIBBY, WHICH "SEEMED TO HAVE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING THEY'D BEEN HOPING TO FIND, "OUT WEST."



ED BEGAN WORK IMMEDIATELY AS A TREE FALLER FOR FIRST ONE, THEN ANOTHER SMALL SCALE LOGGING CONTRACTOR, DID WELL, AND BEFORE SUMMER'S END HE FOUND EMPLOYMENT AS A FALLER FOR ESMUND BACHE AND BACHE BROTHER'S LOGGING OF LIBBY. HIS WORK FOR BACHE BROTHER'S CONTINUED REWARDINGLY FOR FOURTEEN YEARS. THE DENSE, AND VERY OFTEN PRISTINE, TALL TIMBER FORESTS OF LINCOLN COUNTY DEFINITELY SATISFIED ED'S "BIG TREE" CUTTING DREAMS DURING HIS YEARS AS A FALLER FOR BACHE BROTHER'S. AND, THE OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES WITH REGARD TO HUNTING AND FISHING THROUGHOUT THE KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST PROVED TO BE ALL HE HAD DREAMED OF AND MORE.

IN 1974, WHEN THE LOGGING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTHWEST BEGAN TO DECLINE, ED BECAME EMPLOYED BY W.R. GRACE & CO, AT THEIR ZONOLITE MINE, LOCATED A FEW MILES NORTH OF LIBBY, FIRSTLY IN THE GENERAL LABOR POOL, AND THEN AS A TRUCK DRIVER IN THE FREIGHT DEPARTMENT, IN WHICH CAPACITY HE CONTINUED UNTIL HE RETIRED IN 1986 AT AGE 65. WITH HIS STEPDAUGHTER AND DAUGHTER HAVING BEEN FOR QUITE SOME TIME ON THEIR OWN, HE COMMENCED TO ENJOY HIS RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH HIS WIFE MYRTLE AND NUMBERS OF THEIR LOCAL FRIENDS WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS—PRIMARILY LOTS MORE FISHING, HUNTING AND CAMPING OUT IN ORDER TO DO THOSE THINGS MOST EFFECTIVELY, AND IN BETWEEN THAT, PLENTY OF HOME FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDENING, AS WELL AS WILD BERRY-PICKING AND PROCESSING, AND A WIDE SPECTRUM OF MANY OTHER DIVERSE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES.

IN THE LATE NINETIES, HE BEGAN TO FEEL A SERIOUS DECLINE IN HIS OVERALL STRENGTH AND GENERAL HEALTH. SUSPECTING WHAT THE REASONS FOR THAT MIGHT BE, HE SOUGHT FURTHER MEDICAL EVALUATION WITH REGARD TO HIS DEFINITE HEAVY EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS DURING THE MAJOR PART OF HIS EMPLOYMENT WITH W.R. GRACE AND CO. FROM THEN UNTIL 2005, WHEN HIS FAILING HEALTH WOULD NO LONGER PERMIT, HE REGULARLY PARTICIPATED IN AS MANY RELATIVE MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS AS POSSIBLE REGARDING THE LOCAL TRAGEDY OF ASBESTOS CONTAMINATION AND DISEASE. HE SHARED HIS OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF ILLNESS AND FEAR OF WHAT THE FUTURE MIGHT BRING WITH REGARD TO HIS HEALTH AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY. HE SYMPATHIZED WITH PRIOR CO-WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES, AND WITH MANY OTHER SIMILARLY AFFECTED FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS. ALONG WITH SO MANY OTHERS, HE BECAME ACTIVE WITHIN THE LOCAL MOVEMENT FACTIONS SEEKING JUSTICE AND COMPENSATION FOR ASBESTOS VICTIMS. DURING THIS TIME, HIS WIFE MYRTLE ENTERED NURSING HOME CARE DUE TO ADVANCED ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IN EARLY SPRING OF 2004, AND SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED AWAY DUE TO PNEUMONIA ON DECEMBER 30TH, 2005.

ALSO, WITH AN OPEN AND ONGOING WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIM WITH REGARD TO HIS ASBESTOS EXPOSURE INJURY, FILED UNDER MONTANA'S OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE ACT, THE ATTORNEYS HANDLING HIS CLAIM WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIS ASBESTOSIS AS A DEFINITE WORK-RELATED INJURY AND AN ADVANCING, TERMINAL, OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE, AND THEY NEGOTIATED SOME RIGHTFUL WORKER'S COMPENSATION FOR ED. THAT COMPENSATION INCLUDED PAYMENT FOR ALL ASBESTOSIS RELATIVE MEDICAL CONSULTATION, CARE AND TREATMENT LEADING UP TO AND DURING THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS OF HIS LIFE, AS WELL AS BENEFITS TO PROVIDE DOMICILIARY (IN-HOME) CARE. AS HIS ASBESTOSIS ADVANCED IN LATER YEARS, HE DETERMINED THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO BE CARED FOR AT HOME RATHER THAN IN A NURSING HOME FACILITY, ESPECIALLY WITH HIS APPROACHING NEAR-INEVITABLE NEED FOR SUPPLEMENTAL OXYGEN 24 HOURS A DAY. ED WAS THANKFUL AND GLAD TO BE CARED FOR AT HOME DURING THE LAST MONTHS OF HIS LIFE, AND HIS FAMILY ARE ALSO VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT, AND WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT HELPED TO MAKE HIS WISHES POSSIBLE.

ED WAS A CHRISTIAN, WITH WELL-ESTABLISHED, FIRM BELIEFS AND PRINCIPLES. HE WAS A DEVOTED HUSBAND AND FAMILY MAN, AND THOUGH, IN HIS OWN WORDS, "OH WELL, I'M JUST AN AVERAGE 'JOE'," A WELL-LIKED AND RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH HE LIVED. EVEN THOUGH DURING HIS MUCH LOOKED FORWARD TO RETIREMENT YEARS, HE WAS ABLE TO DISCERN THAT THE UGLY REALITY OF ASBESTOSIS DISEASE WOULD CERTAINLY TAINT AND THEN LIKELY CONSUME THE LAST OF HIS TIME, HE REMAINED GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR GRANTING HIM THE GREAT GIFT OF LIVING, FOR MOST OF HIS TIME ON EARTH, "A VERY GOOD LIFE." HE LOVED BEING IN THE FOREST, ESPECIALLY IN THE HIGH "TALL TIMBER" OF MONTANA, AND HE OFTEN REMARKED TO HIS FAMILY THAT HE ALWAYS FELT LOSER TO GOD THERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE. HIS WIFE SHARED THOSE FEELINGS. THEY LOVED EACH OTHER UNCONDITIONALLY. THEIR FIFTY-FOUR YEAR MARRIAGE, DURING WHICH NOT ONE SUN WAS ALLOWED TO SET WITHOUT EACH OF THEM DECLARING THEIR ETERNAL LOVE AND DEVOTION FOR THE OTHER, WAS, TO THEIR COMBINED FAMILY AND FRIENDS, ALWAYS AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE OF WHAT TWO PEOPLE, DETERMINED TO BE HAPPY TOGETHER, CAN ACTUALLY ACHIEVE. THROUGH A SOLID COMMITMENT TO SUCCEED IN THEIR MARRIAGE AND MAINTAIN THEIR LOVE AND DEVOTION FOR EACH OTHER, THEY LEARNED TO BLEND THEIR DREAMS AND FOLLOW THEM AS ONE. AS A RESULT, THEY FOUND TREMENDOUS HAPPINESS.

PER ED'S REQUEST TO HIS FAMILY, THERE WILL BE NO PUBLIC SERVICES. DIRECT CREMATION AND SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE INTERMENT AT LIBBY CEMETERY WILL BE HANDLED BY SCHNACKENBERG & NELSON FUNERAL HOME. ANYONE WISHING TO OFFER CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY MAY CONTACT: THE FAMILY OF ED BENOIT, PO BOX 1582, LIBBY, MT 59923. THE FAMILY PLANS TO HOST A PICNIC GATHERING IN LATE SPRING/EARLY SUMMER FOR EVERYONE THAT WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THEM IN A LIGHT-HEARTED CELEBRATION OF ED'S LIFE. THOSE INTERESTED SHOULD WATCH FOR PUBLICATION OF AN EXACT DATE IN LOCAL LIBBY NEWSPAPERS IN LATE MAY, EARLY JUNE.